

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0907

June 11, 2003

The Honorable Mel Martinez
Secretary
United States Department of Housing and Urban Development
451 Seventh Street, SW
Washington, DC 20410

Dear Secretary Martinez:

Despite numerous opportunities and resources that the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has provided to the Sanford Housing Authority (SHA), unacceptable living conditions and dilapidated public housing units continue to plague this program. Unfortunately, SHA has failed to reform the public housing under its care and numerous deficiencies identified by HUD. Not only do citizens in dire need of housing assistance continue to endure substandard living conditions, but they are also being disadvantaged by the state of the existing program.

Unfortunately, the current situation is the result of years of problems with the SHA, including mismanagement, corrupt practices and limited resources. While I understand that the present Housing Director has attempted to improve conditions, it appears to me that the situation continues to deteriorate. It may in fact be beyond the capability of the SHA to correct the public housing problems which exist.


Therefore, I respectfully request that HUD initiate immediate proceedings to assume control of the SHA and reform the aging and outdated public housing units. Federal assumption of the public housing properties will allow HUD to both correct the management and structural deficiencies of the SHA and provide low-income residents with safe, satisfactory and respectable public housing.

Regrettably, the SHA has been under strict scrutiny for the past two years and has failed or been unable to make timely improvements mandated by the federal government. The time has come to initiate decisive and positive actions to ensure that our most needy citizens have sufficient and acceptable public housing. I urge you to consider the implementation of my recommendation to improve this public housing program as soon as possible.

I look forward to working with you and Sanford Mayor Brady Lessard as we continue to assist those in need of public housing.

With my regards and best wishes, I remain

Sincerely,



John L. Mica
Member of Congress

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